

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 296

Introduced by Assembly Member Negrete McLeod

February 9, 2005

An act to amend Section 122415 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to hepatitis C.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 296, as introduced, Negrete McLeod. Hepatitis C.

The existing Hepatitis C Education, Screening, and Treatment Act requires the Director of Corrections to perform various functions and duties with respect to testing and treatment of individuals in the correctional system for hepatitis C. Existing law requires the director to provide the budget subcommittees of the Legislature, on or before March 1, 2002, with an annual statistical report on the prevalence of the hepatitis C virus in correctional facilities and trends in the incidence and prevalence of the hepatitis C virus in the correctional system. Existing law implements these provisions only to the extent funds for this purpose have been appropriated in the annual Budget Act.

This bill would revise these provisions to also require the director to make treatment and testing for hepatitis C confidential and at no cost to the inmate and to make available comprehensive hepatitis C education for all prisoners.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 122415 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

122415. (a) The Director of Corrections shall do all of the following:

(1) Provide the budget subcommittees of the Legislature, on or before March 1, 2002, with an annual statistical report on the prevalence of the hepatitis C virus in correctional facilities and trends in the incidence and prevalence of the hepatitis C virus in the correctional system.

(2) Establish and make available a voluntary program to test inmates for the presence of the hepatitis C virus upon incarceration *that is free and confidential* and in conjunction with any routine blood testing.

(3) Update treatment protocols and regimens as new therapies become available. *Make treatment and followup testing available to inmates at no charge.*

(4) *Provide free and confidential voluntary testing for all prisoners in conjunction with prevention education and treatment counseling.*

(5) *Make available comprehensive hepatitis C education for all prisoners, including information on hepatitis C transmission through the sharing of injection equipment or tattoo equipment.*

(b) This section shall be implemented only to the extent funds for this purpose have been appropriated in the annual Budget Act.